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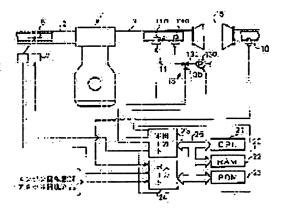
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# (54) EXHAUST EMISSION CONTROL SYSTEM FOR INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE

#### (57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To prevent responsiveness to reducer supply volume control for an NOx absorbent from deteriorating caused by reduce sticking to a wall surface if a liquid-like reducer is used, in an exhaust emission control system in which the NOx absorbent is located in an engine exhaust passage, and in which the reducer is fed into the NOx absorbent. CONSTITUTION: A reducer supply device 11 and a secondary air introduction device 13 are provided in an exhaust passage 3, upstream of an NOx absorbent 15, and an oxygen density sensor 10 is located in the exhaust passage 3, downstream of the NOx absorbent 15. An electronic control unit 20 feeds a reducer by a supply volume in excess of a volume



necessary for regeneration of the NOx absorbent 15, from a reduce supply device 11, and performs feed-back control of the air volume introduced from the secondary air introducing device 13 in accordance with an oxygen density detected by the oxygen density sensor 10 so as to set the air-fuel ratio of exhaust gas flowing into the NOx absorbent 15 is maintained in a predetermined range. Since the density of the reducer in the NOx absorbent is controlled by the secondary air volume, the control responsiveness and the control stability can be enhanced in comparison with such control that the density of the reducer is controlled by the reducer supply device 11.

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#### **CLAIMS**

#### [Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] To the flueway of the internal combustion engine which burns the Lean air-fuel ratio in most engine operating range at least It is NOX when the air-fuel ratio of inflow exhaust air is Lean. NOX which was absorbed, and was absorbed when the oxygen density of inflow exhaust air fell NOX to emit An absorbent is arranged. A reducing agent is introduced during exhaust air under a predetermined service condition, and it is said NOX. NOX absorbed from the absorbent It is this NOX while making it emit. In the exhaust emission control device of the internal combustion engine which does reduction purification Said NOX NOX absorbed at least to the absorbent A reducing-agent supply means to supply the reducing agent of the above amount needed for reduction purification, It is said NOX at the time of said reducing-agent supply. A secondary air installation means to introduce the secondary air into the flueway of the absorbent upstream, Said NOX An oxygen density detection means to detect the oxygen density under exhaust air of the absorbent downstream, Based on the detected oxygen density, the amount of secondary airs of said secondary air installation means is adjusted, and it is said NOX. Exhaust emission control device of the internal combustion engine characterized by having the control means which controls the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into an absorbent in the predetermined range.

[Translation done.]

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#### **DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Industrial Application] This invention is NOX under exhaust air of internal combustion engines which burn the Lean air-fuel ratio in most operating range, such as a gasoline engine which carries out a diesel power plant and lean combustion to a detail, about an internal combustion engine's exhaust emission control device. It is effectively related with a removable exhaust emission control device.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] As an example of this kind of exhaust emission control device, there are some which were indicated by the Provisional-Publication-No. 62-No. 106826 official report, for example. The equipment of this official report is NOX under existence of oxygen to a Diesel engine's flueway. The absorbent (catalyst) to absorb is arranged and it is NOX under exhaust air. It is made to absorb and is NOX of this absorbent. By intercepting the inflow of the exhaust air to an absorbent and supplying a gas-like reducing agent to an absorbent, when absorption efficiency falls, it is an absorbent to NOX. NOX emitted while making it emit Reduction purification is carried out. [0003]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] With the exhaust emission control device of the above-mentioned Provisional-Publication-No. 62-No. 106826 official report, it is NOX. NOX from an absorbent In order to perform emission and reduction purification (henceforth "playback"), it is NOX about gas-like reducing agents, such as hydrogen. The absorbent is supplied. However, the reducing agent of the shape of a gas, such as hydrogen, produces various problems, when there is a problem with difficult handling, such as needing a special container on the occasion of storage, and it uses it especially for the internal combustion engine for cars.

[0004] Therefore, NOX It is desirable that liquid fuel used for the internal combustion engine concerned, such as a gasoline and gas oil, can be used as they are as a reducing agent used for playback of an absorbent. However, liquid fuel, such as a gasoline and gas oil, contains many components from which the boiling point differs, and the amount of the fuel evaporated with temperature changes. For this reason, if such liquid fuel is supplied to an exhaust air system as they are, it will remain without some fuels evaporating according to an exhaust-gas temperature, and the problem which adheres to a flueway wall surface while it has been liquefied is produced. These wall surface adhesion fuels are also transmitted to a flueway wall surface, and drop off, and, finally it is NOX. It reaches and evaporates [burn and] to an absorbent. However, NOX It is NOX by the time it reaches an absorbent. It is NOX after pouring a reducing agent into an exhaust air system, since the time of concentration which changes according to the distance and the exhaust air rate of flow to an absorbent is needed. By the time the reducing agent of the specified quantity is obtained with an absorbent, a time lag will arise.

[0005] In order to prevent this, in consideration of wall surface coating weight, the reducing agent more than an initial complement is beforehand poured into an exhaust air system, and it is NOX in early stages. It is also possible to increase the amount of the evaporation component which reaches an absorbent. However, the reducing agent which adhered to the wall surface in this case is NOX after the above-mentioned time delay progress. If an absorbent is reached, the amount of a reducing agent will become superfluous, and it is NOX. Since the air-fuel ratio in an absorbent part becomes

rich, it is NOX. Ammonia is generated with an absorbent or there is a possibility that it may be emitted to atmospheric air, without consuming HC of a reducing agent, CO component, etc. [0006] For this reason, liquefied reducing agents, such as gas oil, are used and it is NOX. Wall surface adhesion and NOX of an above-mentioned reducing agent when reproducing an absorbent The attainment delay to an absorbent is taken into consideration, and it is NOX. It is necessary to change the reducing-agent amount of supply with time amount so that the reducing agent of a predetermined flow rate may always reach an absorbent. However, wall surface coating weight and NOX of a reducing agent The attainment time delay to an absorbent changes with service conditions, such as an exhaust-gas temperature and the exhaust air rate of flow, a lot. Therefore, when using a liquefied reducing agent, even if it was the case where it will be necessary to control the reducing-agent amount of supply finely according to these conditions, and there was a problem which a control network complicates, and the reducing-agent amount of supply was controlled correctly, since there was a time delay by above-mentioned wall surface adhesion, there was a problem with it difficult [ to raise the responsibility and stability of control ].

[0007] If it is made to pour into an exhaust air system after atomizing to extent which pours into an exhaust air system or does not produce wall surface adhesion after making a liquefied reducing agent evaporate completely beforehand, the above-mentioned problem at the time of using a liquefied reducing agent is solvable to some extent. However, since for that the special device for evaporation of a reducing agent or atomization is needed, there is a problem which causes complication of equipment and the increment in cost.

[0008] In view of the above-mentioned problem, the problem about above-mentioned liquefied reducing-agent use is solved, without forming the special equipment for evaporation of a reducing agent, or atomization, the responsibility and stability of reducing-agent amount-of-supply control are raised, and this invention is NOX. It aims at offering the exhaust emission control device which can perform efficient playback of an absorbent.

[Means for Solving the Problem] According to this invention, as shown in the block diagram of invention of drawing 1, to the flueway of the internal combustion engine which burns the Lean airfuel ratio in most engine operating range at least It is NOX when the air-fuel ratio of inflow exhaust air is Lean. NOX which was absorbed, and was absorbed when the oxygen density of inflow exhaust air fell NOX to emit An absorbent is arranged. A reducing agent is introduced during exhaust air under a predetermined service condition, and it is said NOX. NOX absorbed from the absorbent It is this NOX while making it emit. In the exhaust emission control device of the internal combustion engine which does reduction purification Said NOX NOX absorbed at least to the absorbent A reducing-agent supply means A to supply the reducing agent of the above amount needed for reduction purification It is said NOX at the time of said reducing-agent supply. A secondary air installation means B to introduce the secondary air into the flueway of the absorbent upstream Said NOX An oxygen density detection means C to detect the oxygen density under exhaust air of the absorbent downstream Based on the detected oxygen density, the amount of secondary airs of said secondary air installation means is adjusted, and it is said NOX. The exhaust emission control device of the internal combustion engine characterized by having the control means D which controls the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into an absorbent in the predetermined range is offered.

[Function] At the time of reducing-agent supply, the reducing-agent supply means A is always NOX. The reducing agent more superfluous than a complement to absorbent playback is introduced into exhaust air, and control of the precise reducing-agent amount of supply is not performed. Based on the oxygen density which the oxygen density detection means C detected, a control means D carries out feedback control of the introductory air content of the secondary air installation means B, and is NOX. The air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into an absorbent is maintained in the predetermined range. Thereby, it is NOX irrespective of the amount of the reducing agent adhering to a wall surface. It is NOX while the reducing agent of an initial complement is always supplied to an absorbent. The responsibility and stability of Air Fuel Ratio Control of exhaust air which flow into an absorbent part improve.

[0011]

[Example] With reference to <u>drawing 2</u>, the example at the time of applying this invention to a diesel power plant is explained. In <u>drawing 2</u>, in 1, a diesel power plant and 2 show an engine inlet pipe, and 3 shows an engine exhaust pipe. In this example, the shutter bulb 6 is formed in the engine inlet pipe 2.

[0012] It is the format of a butterfly valve with little inhalation-of-air resistance at the time of full open, and is held at full open at the time of usual operation of an engine, and the shutter bulb 6 is the below-mentioned NOX. NOX absorbed by the absorbent Clausilium is carried out to predetermined opening at the time of emission and reduction actuation, and the air content which extracts an inlet pipe 2 and is inhaled by the engine is reduced. The actuator of proper formats, such as a step motor which carries out the closing motion drive of the shutter bulb 6 in response to the signal from the electronic control unit (ECU) 20 of the after-mentioned [7], and a negative pressure actuator, and 8 are opening sensors which detect the opening of a shutter bulb.

[0013] Moreover, the pulse air induction reactor 13 is arranged at the reducing-agent feeder 11 and its downstream at the engine exhaust pipe 3, and an exhaust pipe 3 is NOX at the downstream further. It connects with casing which held the absorbent 15. Moreover, NOX In the flueway of absorbent 15 outlet, it is NOX. The oxygen density sensor 10 which detects the oxygen density under exhaust air which passes an absorbent is formed.

[0014] The reducing-agent feeder 11 is NOX. The exhaust pipe 3 of the upstream of an absorbent 15 is equipped with injection valve 11a which injects a reducing agent, and the reducing agent of a predetermined flow rate is poured in into an exhaust pipe 3 according to the input signal from ECU20. Liquid fuel, such as a hydrocarbon of liquids, such as a propane, a propylene, and butane, or a gas, a gasoline, gas oil, and kerosene, etc. can be used that what is necessary is just what is exhausting and generates reduction components, such as a hydrocarbon and a carbon monoxide, as a reducing agent. However, the gas oil same as a reducing agent in this example as an engine fuel is used from the above-mentioned reason, and gas oil is pressurized by the feed pump from the fuel tank of the engine which is not illustrated, and is supplied to injection valve 11a.

[0015] The pulse air induction reactor 13 is equipped with flow-control-valve 13c which has actuator 13b, such as source of pressurization air supply 13a, such as an electric rotary pump, and a stepper motor, and nozzle 13d, drives actuator 13b of flow-control-valve 13c with the control signal from ECU20, changes the opening of flow-control-valve 13c, and can adjust now the flow rate of the secondary air introduced into an exhaust pipe 3 from nozzle 13d.

[0016] The RIN mixture sensor which outputs the signal which changes continuously according to the oxygen density under exhaust air is used for the oxygen density sensor 10. However, in this example, since ON/OFF control of the flow-control-valve 13c is carried out like the after-mentioned, the sensor of the type with which an output changes suddenly near the theoretical air fuel ratio as an oxygen density sensor 10 may be used. Moreover, it is the electronic control unit (ECU) of an engine 1 which is shown in drawing by 20. ECU20 consists of a digital computer of a configuration of having connected CPU21, RAM22, ROM23 and input port 24, and an output port 25 mutually with the bi-directional bus 26, and performs basic control, such as fuel-oil-consumption control of an engine, and also it is performing control of playback actuation of a NOX absorbent etc. in this example. For these control, the opening signal of the shutter bulb opening sensor 8 to a shutter bulb is inputted, respectively, and also the oxygen density signal under [ the oxygen density sensor 10 to ] exhaust air is inputted into the input port 24 of ECU20 again from the sensor which signals, such as an engine speed, accelerator opening, and an exhaust-gas-temperature signal, do not illustrate, respectively.

[0017] NOx An absorbent 15 makes an alumina support and is Potassium K, Sodium Na, Lithium Li, and Caesium Cs on this support. Alkali metal [ like ] and barium Ba, Calcium calcium At least one chosen from an alkaline earth [ like ], Lanthanum La, and rare earth like Yttrium Y, and platinum Pt Noble metals [ like ] are supported. This NOX An absorbent 15 is NOX when the air-fuel ratio of the flowing exhaust air is Lean. It is NOX, if it absorbs and an oxygen density falls. NOX to emit An absorption/emission action is performed.

[0018] In addition, an above-mentioned exhaust air air-fuel ratio is NOX here. The ratio of the sum total of an air content and the sum total of a fuel supplied to the flueway of the upstream of an absorbent 15, an engine combustion chamber, an inhalation-of-air path, etc., respectively shall be

meant. Therefore, NOX When a fuel (reducing agent) or air is not supplied to the upstream flueway of an absorbent 15, an exhaust air air-fuel ratio becomes equal to an engine operation air-fuel ratio (air-fuel ratio in combustion of an engine combustion chamber). [0019] Since the diesel power plant is used in this example, the exhaust air air-fuel ratio at the time of operation is usually Lean, and it is NOX. An absorbent 15 is NOX under exhaust air. It absorbs. Moreover, if a reducing agent is introduced by the below-mentioned actuation during exhaust air and an oxygen density falls, the NOX absorbent 15 will emit the absorbed reducing agent. There is also a part which is not clear about the detailed mechanism of this absorption/emission action. However, it is thought that this absorption/emission action is performed by the mechanism as shown in drawing 3. Next, it is Platinum Pt on support about this mechanism. And barium Ba It becomes the same mechanism even if it uses other noble metals, alkali metal, an alkaline earth, and rare earth, although explained taking the case of the case where it is made to support. [0020] That is, if inflow exhaust air becomes Lean considerably, the oxygen density under inflow exhaust air will increase sharply, and it is drawing 3 (A). It is these oxygen O2 so that it may be shown. O2 - It is Platinum Pt in a form. It adheres to a front face. On the other hand, NO under inflow exhaust air is Platinum Pt. It is O2 on a front face. - It reacts and is set to NO2 (2 NO+O2 ->2NO2). Subsequently, generated NO2 A part is drawing 3 (A), being absorbed in an absorbent and combining with the barium oxide BaO oxidizing on Platinum Pt. It is nitrate ion NO3 so that it may be shown. - It is spread in an absorbent in a form. Thus, NOx NOx It is absorbed in an absorbent 15. [0021] Therefore, it is Platinum Pt as long as the oxygen density under inflow exhaust air is high. It is NO2 in a front face. It is generated and is NOx of an absorbent. It is NO2 unless absorptance is saturated. It is absorbed in an absorbent and is nitrate ion NO3. - It is generated. On the other hand, the oxygen density under inflow exhaust air falls, and it is NO2. When the amount of generation decreases, a reaction goes to hard flow (NO3-->NO2), and it is the nitrate ion NO3 in an absorbent in this way. - NO2 It is emitted from an absorbent in a form. That is, it is NOx if the oxygen density under inflow exhaust air falls. An absorbent 15 to NOx It will be emitted. [0022] On the other hand, these components are Platinum Pt if reduction components, such as HC and CO, exist during inflow exhaust air. Upper oxygen O2 - It reacts and oxidizes, the oxygen under exhaust air is consumed, and the oxygen density under exhaust air is reduced. Moreover, it is NOX by the oxygen density fall under exhaust air. NO2 emitted from the absorbent 15 <u>Drawing 3</u> (B) It reacts with HC and CO and is returned so that it may be shown. Thus, platinum Pt It is NO2 on a front face. When it stops existing, it is NO2 from an absorbent to the degree from a degree. It is emitted. Therefore, it is Platinum Pt to the inside of a short time, so that HC under inflow exhaust air and CO component increase. Upper oxygen O2 - Consumption of the oxygen under exhaust air is performed and it is NOx at a short time from the NOx absorbent 15. It will be emitted and returned. [0023] That is, HC under inflow exhaust air and CO are Platinum Pt first. O2 [upper] - It reacts immediately, oxidizes and, subsequently is Platinum Pt. O2 [upper] - NOx emitted by this HC and

CO from the absorbent when HC and CO still remained, even if consumed And NOx discharged by the engine It is returned, therefore, under engine operation -- NOX in order to perform emission and reduction -- NOX the amount of the reducing agent which should be supplied to an absorbent -dilution and Platinum Pt of (1) exhaust air fully reducing the oxygen density under exhaust air by the oxygen consumption by the upper oxidation -- a complement and (2) NOX the total emitted from an absorbent 15 -- NOX It becomes the sum total with a complement returning. [0024] Moreover, NOX In order to make playback by emission and reduction complete for a short time, it is NOX as mentioned above. As the concentration of the reducing agent in an absorbent always becomes above to some extent, reduction of NOX is promoted, and it is NOX. NOX from an absorbent It is necessary to increase an emission rate. Therefore, NOX In order to shorten the playback time amount of an absorbent, it is NOX about the reducing agent of the above-mentioned initial complement. It must supply by flow rate to which the concentration of the reducing agent in

reducing agent supplied to an absorbent exceeds the above (1) and the sum total of (2), and it is NOX. If the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into an absorbent becomes rich sharply, components, such as HC of a reducing agent and CO, are NOX. In being emitted to atmospheric air as it is, without oxidizing with an absorbent \*\*\*\*, it is NOX. The problem which generates ammonia

an absorbent always becomes above to some extent. On the other hand, it is NOX. The amount of the

with an absorbent arises.

[0025] However, it is NOX by adjusting the reducing-agent amount of supply, since there are problems, such as wall surface adhesion of a reducing agent, as mentioned above when a liquefied reducing agent is used. It is difficult to control the concentration (exhaust air air-fuel ratio) of the reducing agent which flows into an absorbent with a precision sufficient in the proper range. So, at this example, it is NOX. It is controlling by adjusting the amount of installation of the secondary air rather than adjusting the reducing-agent amount of supply and controlling the air-fuel ratio of exhaust air at the time of absorbent playback. That is, as a reducing agent supplies the superfluous amount beyond the above (1) and the sum total of (2) in this example, detailed control of the amount of supply is not performed, but it is NOX. It is based on the oxygen density detected by the oxygen density sensor 10 of absorbent 15 outlet, and is NOX. Feedback control of the amount of secondary airs is carried out so that the exhaust air air-fuel ratio which flows into an absorbent may become a predetermined value (for example, theoretical air fuel ratio). [0026] Drawing 4 and drawing 5 are above NOX. An example of the flow chart of absorbent playback control is shown. This routine is performed by ECU20 for every fixed time amount. When

a routine starts in drawing 4, at step 401 Engine-speed N, The accelerator opening ACC and the engine exhaust-gas temperature TEX are NOX from each sensor. While the oxygen density ROX under exhaust air at an absorbent outlet is inputted from the oxygen density sensor 10, respectively NOX of the NOX absorbent which is calculated by the below-mentioned routine and stored in RAM22 An absorbed amount W is read and it is NOX based on these at step 403. It is judged whether the playback execution condition of an absorbent is satisfied.

[0027] Here, it is NOX. (1) accelerator opening ACC the playback execution condition of an absorbent Below a predetermined value And that engine-speed N is beyond a predetermined value (that is, an engine should be moderation operating), a thing [(2) engine exhaust-gas temperature TEX / beyond predetermined temperature ], (3) NOX NOX of an absorbent It is that an absorbed amount W is more than the specified quantity etc., and only when the conditions of above-mentioned (1) - (3) are all satisfied, 405 or less-step NOX absorbent playback actuation is performed. [0028] Here, it is NOX. Since it is necessary to close the inhalation-of-air shutter bulb 6 like the after-mentioned at the time of (above-mentioned condition (1)) and playback, and to reduce an inhalation air content, an absorbent 15 will be reproduced for producing a torque shock and operability getting worse only at the time of engine moderation, if it usually reproduces during operation. Moreover, it is NOX which an exhaust-gas temperature carries out to beyond a predetermined value (the above-mentioned conditions (2)). An absorbent is NOX. It is because it is required to have reached the activation temperature which emission and a reduction operation activate. Moreover, NOX NOX of an absorbent It is making for an absorbed amount to be more than the specified quantity (the above-mentioned conditions (3)) into a playback execution condition for avoiding frequent playback actuation, and performing playback actuation, only when playback is very required. In addition, the above NOX The predetermined value of an absorbed amount is NOX. NOX which an absorbent 15 may absorb It is carried out to about 30% of a peak. [0029] It is NOX at step 403. When all absorbent playback conditions are satisfied, Counter C counts

up plus 1 at step 405, and at step 407, it is judged for Counter C whether it is beyond the predetermined value CR. Here, Counter C is a counter corresponding to the elapsed time after playback conditions are satisfied at step 403, and the predetermined value CR is NOX. Playback time amount tR needed for completing playback of an absorbent It is a corresponding count of routine activation. Playback time amount tR NOX NOX in the type of an absorbent, and a playback execution condition It is the constant decided by setup (step 403, the above-mentioned conditions (3)) of the specified quantity of an absorbed amount etc. Since playback is completed when it is C>=CR at step 407 namely, it is NOX at step 409. NOX of an absorbent An absorbed amount W is set to zero, 431 or less step is performed, and playback actuation is ended.

[0030] When it is C<CR at step 407, it is 411 or less-step NOX. Absorbent playback actuation is performed. That is, at step 411, clausilium of the shutter bulb 6 of the engine inlet pipe 2 is carried out to predetermined opening. It is because there is no throttle valve in an inlet pipe and the amount of the reducing agent needed in order to reduce the oxygen density under exhaust air, if an inlet pipe is not extracted at the time of playback, since there are many inhalation air contents becomes

excessive by the diesel power plant. In addition, it is NOX of an exhaust air system about a means to replace with a shutter bulb in order to reduce the amount of a reducing agent, or to consume the oxygen under exhaust air of a burner etc. in addition to a shutter bulb. You may make it prepare in the absorbent upstream.

[0031] In order to prevent that rapid moderation produces the opening of a shutter bulb, it is beforehand set up as a function of an engine speed, and this function is stored in ROM23 of ECU20 in the form of a numerical table. The opening set point of the shutter bulb 6 is read from a numerical table based on an engine speed, the shutter valve actuator 7 is driven and the shutter bulb 6 is controlled by step 411 to predetermined opening so that the opening detected by the shutter bulb opening sensor 8 becomes equal to the above-mentioned set point. Subsequently, the reducing-agent amount of supply is determined at step 413. Namely, flow rate F1 of a reducing agent required in order to calculate the amount of oxygen under exhaust air from the oxygen density ROX under exhaust air read at step 401, and an engine inhalation air content and to consume the amount of oxygen It is computed. Furthermore, NOX read at step 401 NOX of an absorbent Amount WR of the reducing agent needed for returning an absorbed amount W It is calculated and is WR. Predetermined playback time amount tR It divides and is NOX. Reducing-agent flow rate F2 required to return an absorbed amount W It is computed. And the flow rate F of the reducing agent which should be supplied is determined as F=(F1+F2) xalpha.

[0032] Here, it is calculated from an engine speed and shutter bulb opening, and an engine inhalation air content is NOX. An absorbed amount W is calculated by the below-mentioned routine. Moreover, alpha is a larger constant than 1. That is, a reducing agent is supplied to playback from a complement at an excess. Subsequently, at step 415, the opening of reducing-agent injection valve 11a is set up so that the injection quantity F may be obtained, and a reducing agent is introduced into an exhaust pipe 3.

[0033] Moreover, at step 417, electric rotary pump 13a of a pulse air induction reactor 13 is turned ON, and the secondary air is introduced into an exhaust pipe 3. Subsequently, it progresses to drawing 5 and the opening of flow-control-valve 13c of a pulse air induction reactor 13 is adjusted according to the output of the oxygen density sensor 10 at steps 419-425. That is, if it is judged whether it is beyond the predetermined value Rst and the exhaust air oxygen density ROX read at step 401 in step 419 is ROX>=Rst, it is the opening VA of flow-control-valve 13c at step 421. Only the predetermined value beta is reduced. Moreover, if it is ROX<Rst, it is the opening VA of flow-control-valve 13c at step 423. Only beta increases. Thereby, it is the opening VA of flow-control-valve 13c. It is controlled so that the output ROX of the oxygen density sensor 10 becomes the predetermined value Rst. In this example, the above-mentioned predetermined value Rst is set as the oxygen density which gives theoretical air fuel ratio. Opening VA set up by the above at step 425 It outputs to actuator 13b of flow-control-valve 13c, and a routine is ended.

[0034] In addition, above-mentioned <u>drawing 4</u> and playback time amount tR predetermined at step 407 If it passes or a playback execution condition stops satisfying at step 403, step 439 will be performed from <u>drawing 5</u> and step 431, zero reset of the counter C is carried out (step 431), the shutter bulb 6 is made full open (step 433), installation of reducing-agent supply and the secondary air is suspended (steps 435, 437, and 439), and playback actuation stops.

[0035] As mentioned above, it is NOX, in order to supply a reducing agent superfluously and for adjustment of the amount of installation of the secondary air to perform control of an exhaust air airfuel ratio in this example. The reducing agent of amount sufficient related always for wall surface adhesion of a liquefied reducing agent is supplied to an absorbent, and it is NOX by the lack of a reducing agent. The situation where playback of an absorbent becomes inadequate is prevented. Moreover, NOX Since the exhaust air air-fuel ratio which flows into an absorbent is always maintained near the theoretical air fuel ratio, excessive HC and CO component are NOX. It oxidizes completely with an absorbent and is NOX in that excessive HC and CO component are emitted to atmospheric air \*\*\*\*. The problem by which ammonia is generated with an absorbent is prevented. [0036] Next, NOX read into drawing 6 at the drawing 4 step 401 NOX of an absorbent The calculation routine of an absorbed amount W is shown. This routine is also performed for every fixed time amount by ECU20. If a routine starts in drawing 6, at step 601, engine-speed N and the accelerator opening ACC will be inputted from each sensor. Subsequently, at step 603, it is NOX.

NOX of an absorbent An absorbed amount W is computed. NOX generated here in an engine combustion chamber since it is thought that an amount increases, so that an engine load becomes high, and an engine load is proportional to accelerator opening and a rotational frequency in a diesel power plant -- NOX NOX absorbed by the absorbent an amount W -- last time -- the time of routine activation -- comparing -- KxACCxN (K is a constant) only -- it is thought that it is increasing. Therefore, at step 603, it is NOX. An absorbed amount W is calculated as W<-W+KxACCxN. [0037] Subsequently, NOX calculated by the above at step 605 An absorbed amount W is stored in RAM22, and ends this routine. In addition, it is NOX as mentioned above. An absorbed amount W is NOX. It will be set to zero if playback of an absorbent is completed (step 409). In addition, at the above-mentioned example, it is NOX. NOX absorbed by the absorbent The increment of an amount Although asked as KxACCxN (step 603), they are engine-speed N and the accelerator opening ACC and NOX. It asks for relation with increment deltaW of an absorbed amount beforehand. It stores in ROM23 of ECU20 as a numerical map of engine-speed N and the accelerator opening ACC, and you may make it read increment from ROM23 using engine-speed N and the accelerator opening ACC. Drawing 7 shows the routine equivalent to drawing 6 in this case. That is, if a routine starts, at step 701, engine-speed N and the accelerator opening ACC are inputted from each sensor, this enginespeed N and the accelerator opening ACC are used at step 703, and it is NOX from ROM23 of ECU20. NOX absorbed by the absorbent Increment deltaW of an amount is read. Subsequently, at step 705, it is NOX at the time of routine activation this time. NOX of an absorbent NOX which calculated the absorbed amount W as W<-W+K1 xdeltaW (K1 is a constant), and was calculated from the above at step 707 An absorbed amount W is stored in RAM22, and a routine is ended. [0038] Moreover, in the above-mentioned example, it sets to drawing 4 and step 413, and they are the exhaust air oxygen densities ROX and NOX. NOX of an absorbent Although the reducing-agent amount of supply F is determined for every routine activation using an absorbed amount W, the reducing-agent amount of supply F is NOX. It is [ that what is necessary is just superfluous to the complement ] good for playback of an absorbent also as a constant rate big enough. Furthermore, although the case where an above-mentioned example used gas oil as a liquefied reducing agent was explained, this invention is not necessarily limited to this, and also when using other liquefied reducing agents, it can be applied. Furthermore, although the case where an above-mentioned example applies this invention to a diesel power plant is explained, this invention is applicable to a gasoline engine similarly.

[0039]

[Effect of the Invention] By supplying a reducing agent superfluously and having controlled the exhaust air air-fuel ratio by the amount of secondary airs, a liquefied reducing agent is used for the exhaust emission control device of this invention, without forming the special equipment for evaporation or atomization, and it is NOX. The responsibility and stability of reducing-agent supply control to an absorbent are raised, and it is NOX. Effective playback of an absorbent can be performed.

[Translation done.]

#### \* NOTICES \*

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#### **DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS**

#### [Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is the block diagram showing the configuration of this invention.

[Drawing 2] It is drawing showing the example which applied this invention to the diesel power plant.

[Drawing 3] NOX NOX of an absorbent It is drawing for explaining an absorption/emission action.

[Drawing 4] NOX It is a part of flow chart which shows playback actuation of an absorbent.

[Drawing 5] NOX It is a part of flow chart which shows playback actuation of an absorbent.

[Drawing 6] NOX NOX of an absorbent It is one example of the flow chart which shows absorbed amount calculation.

[Drawing 7] NOX NOX of an absorbent It is an example different from drawing 6 of the flow chart which shows absorbed amount calculation.

[Description of Notations]

- 1 -- Diesel power plant
- 2 -- Engine inlet pipe
- 3 -- Engine exhaust pipe
- 6 -- Shutter bulb
- 7 -- Actuator
- 8 -- Shutter bulb opening sensor
- 10 -- Oxygen density sensor
- 11 -- Reducing-agent feeder
- 11a -- Reducing-agent injection valve
- 13 -- Pulse air induction reactor
- 13c -- Flow control valve
- 15 -- NOX Absorbent
- 20 -- Electronic control unit (ECU)

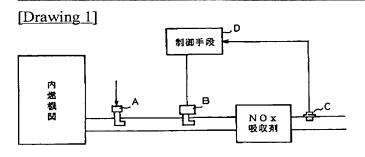
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#### \* NOTICES \*

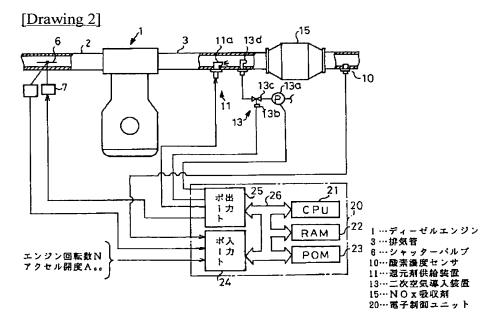
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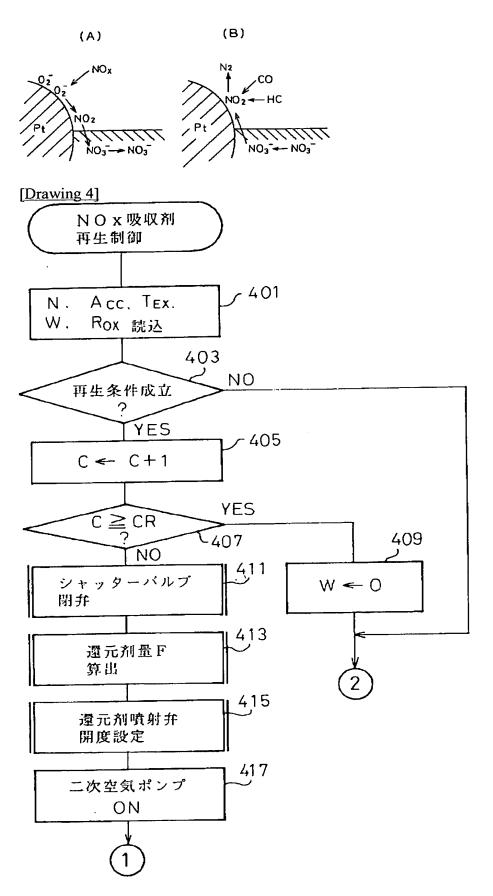
#### **DRAWINGS**



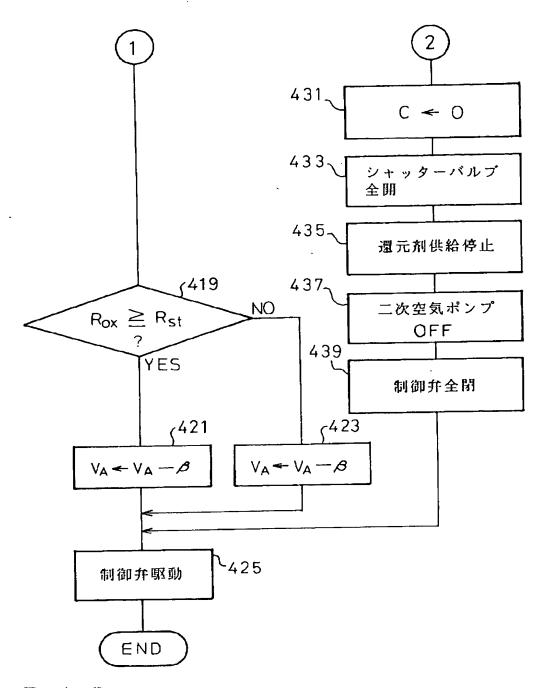
A…還元剂供給手段 B…二次空気導入手段 C…酸素濃度検出手段 D…制御手段



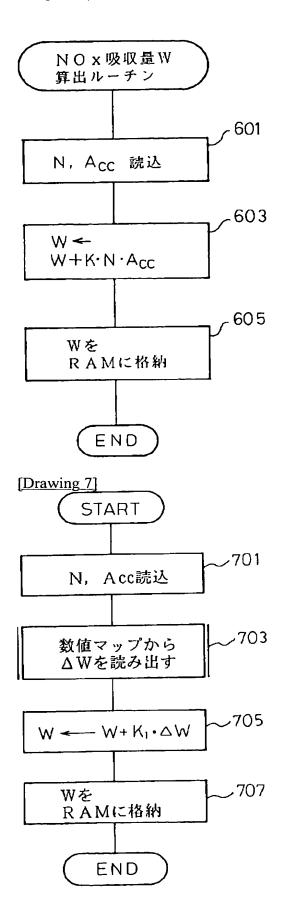
### [Drawing 3]



[Drawing 5]



[Drawing 6]



[Translation done.]

#### PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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## (54) EXHAUST EMISSION CONTROL SYSTEM FOR INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE

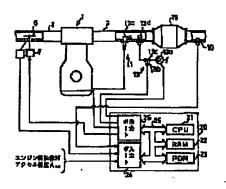
#### (57) Abstract:

PURPOSE: To prevent responsiveness to reducer supply volume control for an NOx absorbent from deteriorating caused by reduce sticking to a wall surface if a liquid-line reducer is used, in an exhaust emission control system in which the NOx absorbent is located in an engine exhaust passage, and in which the reducer is fed into the NOx absorbent.

CONSTITUTION: A reducer supply device 11 and a secondary air introduction device 13 are provided in an exhaust passage 3, upstream of an NOx absorbent 15, and an oxygen density sensor 10 is located in the exhaust passage 3, downstream of the NOx absorbent 15. An electronic control unit 20 feeds a reducer by a supply volume in excess of a volume necessary for regeneration of the NOx absorbent 15, from a reduce supply device 11, and performs feed-back control of the air volume introduced from the secondary air introducing device 13 in accordance with an oxygen density detected by the congran density sensor 10 so as to set the air-fuel ratio of exhaust gas flowing into the NOx absorbent 15 is maintained in a predetermined range. Since the density of the reducer in the NOx absorbent is controlled by the secondary air volume, the control

responsiveness and the control stability can be enhanced in comparison with such control that the density of the reducer supply device 11.

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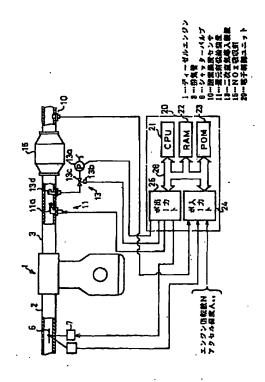
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#### (54) 【発明の名称】 内燃機関の排気浄化装置

#### (57)【要約】 (修正有)

【目的】 機関排気通路にNOx 吸収剤を配置すると共 に、遵元剤をNOx 吸収剤に供給する排気浄化装置にお いて、液状温元剤を使用した場合の還元剤の壁面付着に よるNOx 吸収剤への還元剤供給量制御の応答性の悪化 を防止する。

【構成】 NOx 吸収剤15上流側の排気通路3に、還元剤供給装置11と、二次空気導入装置13とを設け、NOx 吸収剤の下流側に酸素濃度センサ10を配置する。電子制御ユニット20は、還元剤供給装置からNOx吸収剤再生に必要な量よりも過剰な量の還元剤供給量を供給すると共に、酸素濃度センサにより検出された酸素濃度に基づいてNOx吸収剤に流入する排気の空燃比が所定範囲になるように二次空気導入装置から導入する空気量をフィードバック制御する。NOx吸収剤での還元剤の濃度は二次空気量により制御されるため、還元剤供給装置により還元剤濃度を制御する場合に較べて制御の応答性と安定性が向上する。



#### 【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 少なくとも大部分の機関運転領域におい てリーン空燃比の燃焼を行う内燃機関の排気通路に、流 入排気の空燃比がリーンのときにNOxを吸収し、流入 排気の酸素濃度が低下したときに吸収したNOェを放出 するNO。吸収剤を配置し、所定の運転条件下で排気中 に還元剤を導入して前記NOx 吸収剤から吸収したNO "を放出させると共に酸NO"を運元浄化する内燃機関 の排気浄化装置において、前記NOx吸収剤に、少なく とも吸収したNO。の還元浄化に必要とされる以上の量 10 の還元剤を供給する還元剤供給手段と、前記還元剤供給 時に前配NO、吸収剤上流側の排気通路に二次空気を導 入する二次空気導入手段と、前記NO。吸収剤下流側の 排気中の酸素濃度を検出する酸素濃度検出手段と、検出 された酸素濃度に基づいて前配二次空気導入手段の二次 空気量を調整して前記NO、吸収剤に流入する排気の空 燃比を所定範囲に制御する制御手段とを備えたことを特 徴とする内燃機関の排気浄化装置。

#### 【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【産業上の利用分野】本発明は、内燃機関の排気浄化装 置に関し、詳細には、ディーゼルエンジンや希薄燃焼を 行うガソリンエンジン等、大部分の運転領域においてリ ーン空燃比の燃焼を行う内燃機関の排気中のNO。を効 果的に除去可能な排気浄化装置に関する。

[0002]

【従来の技術】との種の排気浄化装置の例としては、例 えば特開昭82-108826号公報に開示されたもの がある。同公報の装置は、ディーゼル機関の排気通路に して排気中のNO、を吸収させ、酸吸収剤のNO、吸収 効率が低下した場合に吸収剤への排気の流入を遮断して 吸収剤に気体状の還元剤を供給することにより、吸収剤 からNO、を放出させると共に、放出されたNO、を選 元浄化するものである。

[0003]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】上記特開昭62-10 6826号公報の排気浄化装置では、NO、吸収剤から のNOxの放出と還元浄化(以下「再生」という)を行 している。しかし、水素等の気体状の還元剤は貯蔵に際 して特別な容器を必要とする等、取扱が困難な問題があ り、特に車両用内燃機関に使用する場合には種々の問題 を生じる。

【0004】従って、NO、吸収剤の再生に用いる還元 剤としては、当該内燃機関に使用するガソリン、軽油等 の液体燃料をそのまま使用できることが好ましい。とこ 、ろが、ガソリン、軽油等の液体燃料は沸点の異なる多く の成分を含んでおり、温度により気化する燃料の量が変 化する。このため、これらの液体燃料をそのまま排気系 50 吸収し、流入排気の酸素濃度が低下したときに吸収した

に供給すると排気温度に応じて燃料の一部が気化せずに 残り、被状のまま排気通路壁面に付着する問題を生じ る。とれらの壁面付着燃料も排気通路壁面を伝ってなが れ、最終的にはNO、吸収剤に到達して燃焼、気化す る。しかし、NO、吸収剤に到達するまでにはNO、吸 収剤までの距離や排気流速に応じて変わる到達時間が必 要となるため、運元剤を排気系に注入してからNO、吸 収削で所定量の還元剤が得られるまでに時間遅れが生じ るととになる。

【0005】とれを防止するために予め、壁面付着量を 考慮して必要量以上の選元剤を排気系に注入して初期に NO、吸収剤に到達する気化成分の量を増大させるとと も可能である。しかし、との場合壁面に付着した還元剤 が上記遅れ時間経過後にNO、吸収剤に到達すると還元 剤の量が過剰になり、NO、吸収剤部分での空燃比が過 濃になるため、NOx 吸収剤でアンモニアが発生した り、還元剤のHC、CO成分などが消費されずに大気に 放出される恐れがある。

【0006】とのため、軽油等の液状還元剤を使用して NO、吸収剤の再生を行う場合には、上述の還元剤の壁 面付着とNO、吸収剤への到達遅れを考慮してNO、吸 収剤に常に所定流量の憂元剤が到達するように還元剤供 給量を時間とともに変化させる必要がある。しかし、遠 元剤の壁面付着量やNO、吸収剤への到達遅れ時間は、 排気温度や排気流速などの運転条件により大きく変化す る。したがって、液状還元剤を使用する場合にはこれら の条件に応じて還元和供給量を細かく制御する必要が生 じ、制御系統が複雑化する問題があり、また、還元剤供 給量を正確に制御した場合であっても、上述の壁面付着 . 酸素の存在下でNO. を吸収する吸収剤(触媒)を配置 30 による遅れ時間があるため制御の応答性や安定性を向上 させることが困難な問題があった。

> 【0007】予め、液状の還元剤を完全に気化させてか ら排気系に注入するか、壁面付着を生じない程度まで微 粒化してから排気系に注入するようにすれば液状湿元剤 を使用する際の上配問題はある程度解決可能である。し かし、とのためには、還元剤の気化や微粒化のための特 別な機器を必要とするため、装置の複雑化やコストの増 加を招く問題がある。

【0008】本発明は、上記問題に鑑み、還元剤の気化 うために、水素等の気体状還元剤をNO、吸収剤に供給 40~や微粒化のための特別な装置を設けることなく上述の液 状還元剤使用に関する問題を解決し、還元剤供給量制御 の応答性と安定性を向上させてNOx吸収剤の効率的な 再生を行うことのできる排気浄化装置を提供することを 目的としている。

[0009]

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明によれば、図1の 発明の構成図に示すように、少なくとも大部分の機関運 転領域においてリーン空燃比の燃焼を行う内燃機関の排 気通路に、流入排気の空燃比がリーンのときにNO』を

NOx を放出するNOx 吸収剤を配置し、所定の運転条 件下で排気中に運元剤を導入して前記NO、吸収剤から 吸収したNO。を放出させると共に較NO。を超元浄化 する内燃機関の排気浄化装置において、前記NOx吸収 剤に、少なくとも吸収したNO。の還元浄化に必要とさ れる以上の量の還元剤を供給する還元剤供給手段Aと、 前記還元剤供給時に前記NO、吸収剤上流側の排気通路 に二次空気を導入する二次空気導入手段Bと、前記NO 1. 吸収剤下流側の排気中の酸素濃度を検出する酸素濃度 検出手段Cと、検出された酸素濃度に基づいて前配二次 10 空気導入手段の二次空気量を調整して前記NO、吸収剤 に流入する排気の空燃比を所定範囲に制御する制御手段 Dとを備えたことを特徴とする内燃機関の排気浄化装置 が提供される。

#### [0010]

【作用】還元剤供給時には、還元剤供給手段Aは、常に NO、吸収剤再生に必要な量より過剰な還元剤を排気に 導入し、精密な運元剤供給量の制御は行わない。制御手 段Dは酸素濃度検出手段Cの検出した酸素濃度に基づい 制御してNO。吸収剤に流入する排気の空燃比を所定範 囲に維持する。とれにより、壁面に付着する還元剤の量 にかかわらずNO、吸収剤には常に必要量の還元剤が供 給されると共にNO、吸収剤部分に流入する排気の空燃 比制御の応答性と安定性が向上する。

#### [0011]

【実施例】図2を参照して、本発明をディーゼルエンジ ンに適用した場合の実施例について説明する。図2にお いて、1はディーゼルエンジン、2はエンジンの吸気 管、3はエンジンの排気管を示す。本実施例では、エン 30 ジンの吸気管2にはシャッターバルブ8が設けられてい

【0012】シャッターパルブ6は全開時の吸気抵抗の 少ないバタフライ弁の形式であり、エンジンの通常運転 時には全開に保持されており、後述のNO、吸収剤に吸 収されたNO」の放出、還元操作時に所定開度まで開弁 され、吸気管2を絞ってエンジンに吸入される空気量を 低下させる。7は後述の電子制御ユニット (ECU) 2 0からの信号を受けてシャッターバルブ6を開閉駆動す るステップモータ、負圧アクチュエータなどの適宜な形 40 式のアクチュエータ、8はシャッターバルブの開度を検 出する開度センサである。

【0013】又、エンジン排気管3には還元剤供給装置 11と、その下流側に二次空気導入装置13が配置され ており、排気管3は、更にその下流部でNO、吸収剂1 5を収容したケーシングに接続されている。また、NO 、吸収剤15出口の排気通路にはNO、吸収剤を通過す る排気中の酸素濃度を検出する酸素濃度センサ10が設 けられている。

の上流側の排気管3に還元剤を噴射する噴射弁11aを 備え、ECU20からの入力信号に応じて所定の液量の 還元剤を排気管3内に注入する。 還元剤としては、排気 中で炭化水素や一酸化炭素等の還元成分を発生するもの であれば良く、プロパン、プロピレン、ブタン等の液体 又は気体の炭化水素、ガソリン、軽油、灯油等の液体燃 科等が使用できる。しかし、前述の理由から本実施例で は還元剤としてエンジンの燃料と同じ軽油を使用してお り、軽油は図示しないエンジンの燃料タンクから供給ポ ンプにより加圧されて噴射弁11aに供給される。

【0015】二次空気導入装置13は電動ポンプ等の加 圧空気供給源13a、ステッパモータ等のアクチュエー タ13bを有する流量制御弁13c、及びノズル13d を備えており、ECU20からの制御信号により流量制 御弁13cのアクチュエータ13bを駆動して流量制御 弁13cの開度を変え、ノズル13dから排気管3に導 入する二次空気の流量を調節出来るようになっている。 【0018】酸素濃度センサ10には、排気中の酸素濃 度に応じて連続的に変化する信号を出力するリーンミク て、二次空気導入手段Bの導入空気量をフィードバック 20 スチャセンサが使用されている。但し、本実施例では、 後述のように流量制御弁13cをON/OFF制御して いるため、酸素濃度センサ10として理論空燃比近傍で 出力が急変するタイプのセンサを使用してもよい。ま た、図に20で示すのはエンジン1の電子制御ユニット (ECU) である。ECU20はCPU21, RAM2 2. ROM23及び入力ポート24、出力ポート25を 相互に双方向バス26で接続した構成のディジタルコン ビュータからなり、エンジンの燃料噴射量制御等の基本 制御を行うほか、本実施例ではNO、吸収剤の再生操作 の制御等を行っている。 とれらの制御のため ECU20 の入力ポート24には、酸素濃度センサ10から排気中 の酸素濃度信号が、またシャッターバルブ開度センサ8 からシャッターバルブの関度信号が、それぞれ入力され ている他、エンジン回転数、アクセル開度、排気温度信 号等の信号がそれぞれ図示しないセンサから入力されて

> 【0017】NOx 吸収剤15は例えばアルミナを担体 とし、との担体上に例えばカリウムK。ナトリウムNa , リチウムLi, セシウムCs のようなアルカリ金 属、パリウムBa, カルシウムCaのようなアルカリ土 類、ランタンLa 、イットリウムYのような希土類から 選ばれた少なくとも一つと、白金Pt のような責金属と が担持されている。とのNO、吸収剤15は流入する排 気の空燃比がリーンの場合にはNO』を吸収し、酸素濃 度が低下するとNO。を放出するNO。の吸放出作用を

【0018】なお、上述の排気空燃比とは、ことではN O. 吸収剤15の上流側の排気通路やエンジン燃焼室、 吸気通路等にそれぞれ供給された空気量の合計と燃料の 【0014】還元剤供給装置11は、NOx吸収剤15 50 合計の比を意味するものとする。従って、NOx吸収剤

15の上流側排気通路に燃料(還元剤)または空気が供 拾されない場合には排気空燃比はエンジンの運転空燃比 (エンジン燃焼室内の燃焼における空燃比) と等しくな

【0019】本実施例では、ディーゼルエンジンが使用 されているため、通常運転時の排気空燃比はリーンであ り、NO、吸収剤15は排気中のNO、の吸収を行う。 また、後述の操作により排気中に還元剤が導入されて酸 素濃度が低下すると、NOx吸収剤15は吸収した湿元 剤の放出を行う。この吸放出作用の詳細なメカニズムに 10 ついては明らかでない部分もある。しかしながらこの吸 放出作用は図3亿示すようなメカニズムで行われている ものと考えられる。次にこのメカニズムについて担体上 に白金Pt およびバリウムBa を担持させた場合を例に とって説明するが他の貴金属、アルカリ金属、アルカリ 土類、希土類を用いても同様なメカニズムとなる。

【0020】即ち、流入排気がかなりリーンになると流 入排気中の酸素濃度が大巾に増大し、図3(A)に示され るようにとれら酸素O,がO, O形で白金Ptの表面 に付着する。一方、流入排気中のNOは白金Ptの表面 20 上でO, - と反応し、NO,となる(2NO+O, →2 NO, )。次いで生成されたNO, の一部は白金Pt上 で酸化されつつ吸収剤内に吸収されて酸化パリウムBa Oと結合しながら、図3(A) に示されるように硝酸イオ ンNO, - の形で吸収剤内に拡散する。このようにして NOx がNOx 吸収剤15内に吸収される。

【0021】従って、流入排気中の酸素濃度が高い限り 白金Pt の表面でNO、が生成され、吸収剤のNOx 吸 収能力が飽和しない限りNO、が吸収剤内に吸収されて 硝酸イオンNO」 が生成される。これに対して流入排 30 気中の酸素温度が低下してNO、の生成量が減少すると 反応が逆方向(NO」 →NO』)に進み、こうして吸 収剤内の硝酸イオンNO, がNO,の形で吸収剤から 放出される。即ち、流入排気中の酸素濃度が低下すると NOx 吸収剤15からNOx が放出されると思えなる。 【0022】一方、流入排気中にHC、CO等の還元成 分が存在すると、これらの成分は白金Pt 上の酸素O。 - と反応して酸化され、排気中の酸素を消費して排気中 の酸素濃度を低下させる。また、排気中の酸素濃度低下 によりNOx 吸収剤15から放出されたNO、は図3 (B) に示すようにHC、COと反応して還元される。と のようにして白金Pt の表面上にNO。が存在しなくな ると吸収剤から次から次へとNO。が放出される。従っ て流入排気中のHC、CO成分が増加する程短時間のう ちに白金Pt上の酸素O, - と排気中の酸素の消費がお となわれ、NOx吸収剤15から短時間でNOx が放出 され、還元されるととになる。

【0023】即ち、流入排気中のHC、COは、まず白 金Pt上のO。 とただちに反応して酸化され、次いで 白金Pt 上のO。 が消費されてもまだHC、COが残 50 回転数Nが所定値以上であること(すなわちェンジンが

っていればとのHC、COによって吸収剤から放出され たNOx および機関から排出されたNOx が還元され る。従って、エンジン運転中KNO』の放出、還元を行 うためにNO、吸収剤に供給すべき還元剤の量は、

(1) 排気の希釈及び白金Pt 上での酸化による酸素消 費により排気中の酸素濃度を充分に低下させるのに必要 な量と、(2)NO、吸収剤15から放出される全NO 、を還元するのに必要な量との合計となる。

【0024】又、NO。の放出、還元による再生を短時 間で完了させるためには、上述のようにNO。吸収剤で の還元剤の濃度が常にある程度以上になるようにしてN O<sub>2</sub>の還元を促進し、NO<sub>2</sub> 吸収剤からのNO<sub>2</sub> 放出速 度を増大する必要がある。従ってNO、吸収剤の再生時 間を短縮するためには、上記必要量の還元剤を、NO。 吸収剤での還元剤の濃度が常にある程度以上になるよう な流量で供給しなければならない。一方、NO。吸収額 に供給する還元剤の量が上記(1)と(2)の合計を越 えてNO<sub>x</sub> 吸収剤に流入する排気の空燃比が大幅にリッ チになると、還元剤のHC、CO等の成分がNO、吸収 剤で酸化されずにそのまま大気に放出されたり、NO. 吸収剤でアンモニアを生成したりする問題が生じる。

【0025】しかし、被状還元剤を使用した場合、前述 のように還元剤の壁面付着等の問題があるため、還元剤 供給量を調節することによってNOx吸収剤に流入する 憂元剤の濃度(排気空燃比)を適正な範囲に精度良く制 御することは困難である。そこで、本実施例では、NO x 吸収剤再生時に排気の空燃比を、還元剤供給量を調節 して制御するのではなく二次空気の導入量を開節すると とにより制御している。すなわち、本実施例では、還元 剤は上記(1)と(2)の合計を越えた過剰な量を供給 するようにして供給量の微細な制御は行わず、NO、吸 収剤15出口の酸素濃度センサ10で検出した酸素濃度 に基づいてNO、吸収剤に流入する排気空燃比が所定値 (例えば理論空燃比)になるように二次空気量をフィー ドバック制御しているのである。

【0026】図4、図5は上記のNO、吸収剤再生制御 のフローチャートの一例を示している。本ルーチンは一 定時間毎にECU20により実行される。図4において ルーチンがスタートするとステップ401ではエンジン 回転数N、アクセル開度Acc、エンジン排気温度Texが それぞれのセンサから、また、NO、吸収剤出口での排 気中の酸素濃度Roxが酸素濃度センサ10からそれぞれ 入力されると共化、後述のルーチンで計算されRAM2 2に格納されているNO、吸収剤のNO、吸収量Ψが読 み込まれ、ステップ403では、これらを基にNO、吸 収剤の再生実行条件が成立しているか否かが判定され

【0027】ととで、NO、吸収剤の再生実行条件は、 (1) アクセル開度 Accが所定値以下、かつ、エンジン

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減速運転中であること)、(2)エンジン排気温度T,。 が所定温度以上であること、(3)NOx 吸収剤のNO ,吸収量∀が所定量以上であること、等であり、上記 (1)~(3)の条件が全部成立した場合のみにステッ ブ405以下のNO\*吸収剤再生操作を行う。

【0028】 CCで、NO、吸収剤 15の再生をエンジ ン減速時にのみ行うのは(上記条件(1))、再生時に は後述のように吸気シャッターバルブ6を閉じて吸入空 気量を低減する必要があるため、通常運転中に再生を行 うとトルクショックを生じ運転性が悪化するためであ る。また、排気温度が所定値以上(上記条件(2))と するのは、NOx 吸収剤がNOx の放出、還元作用の活 性化する活性化温度に達していることが必要だからであ る。また、NO、吸収剤のNO、吸収量が所定量以上で あること(上配条件(3))を再生実行条件としている のは頻繁な再生操作を避けて真に再生が必要な場合にの み再生操作を行うようにするためである。なお、上記N Ox 吸収量の所定値は、例えばNOx 吸収剤15が吸収 しうるNOx の最大量の30パーセント程度とされる。 【0029】ステップ403でNO、吸収剤再生条件が 20 全て成立している場合ステップ405でカウンタCがプ ラス1カウントアップされ、ステップ407ではカウン タCが所定値CR以上か否かが判定される。 CCで、カ ウンタCは、ステップ403で再生条件が成立してから の経過時間に対応するカウンタであり、所定値CRは、 NO、吸収剤の再生を完了するのに必要とされる再生時 間t,に相当するルーチン実行回数である。再生時間t 。はNO、吸収剤のタイプ、再生実行条件におけるNO 、吸収量の所定量の設定(ステップ403、上記条件) (3)) 等によって決まる定数である。ステップ407 30 でC≧CRであった場合は、即ち再生が完了しているの でステップ409でNO、吸収剤のNO、吸収量Wをゼ ロにセットしてステップ431以下を実行して再生操作 を終了する。

【0030】ステップ407でC<CRであった場合 は、ステップ411以下のNO、吸収剤再生操作を実行 する。すなわち、ステップ411では、エンジン吸気管 2のシャッターバルブ6が所定の開度まで閉弁される。 ディーゼルエンジンでは、吸気管にスロットル弁がなく 吸入空気量が多いため再生時に吸気管を絞らないと排気 40 中の酸素濃度を低下させるために必要とされる還元剤の **量が過大になるためである。なお、還元剤の量を低減す** るためシャッターバルブに代えて、またはシャッターバ ルブに加えて、バーナ等の排気中の酸素を消費する手段 を排気系のNO、吸収剤上流側に設けるようにしてもよ

【0031】シャッターバルブの開度は急激な減速が生 じるのを防止するため、予めエンジン回転数の関数とし て設定されており、この関数はECU20のROM23

では、エンジン回転数を基化数値テーブルからシャッタ ーバルブ6の開度設定値を読みだし、シャッターバルブ 開度センサ8で検出した開度が上記設定値に等しくなる ようにシャッターパルプアクチュエータフを駆動してシ ャッターバルブ6を所定開度に制御する。次いで、ステ ップ413では還元剤供給量が決定される。すなわち、 ステップ401で読み込んだ排気中の酸素濃度Roxとエ ンジン吸入空気量とから排気中の酸素量が計算され、そ の酸素量を消費するために必要な還元剤の流量下、が算 出される。更に、ステップ401で読み込んだNO、吸 収剤のNO。吸収量Wを還元するのに必要とされる還元 剤の量♥。が計算され、♥。を所定の再生時間t。で割 ってNO、吸収量Wを還元するのに必要な還元剤流量F

【0032】ととで、エンジン吸入空気量はエンジン回 転数とシャッターバルブ開度とから計算され、NO、吸 収量Wは後述のルーチンで計算される。また、αは1よ り大きい定数である。すなわち、湿元剤は再生に必要な 量より過剰に供給される。次いで、ステップ415では 噴射量Fを得るように還元剤噴射弁11aの開度が設定 され、還元剤が排気管3に導入される。

、が算出される。そして、供給すべき還元剤の流量F

が、 $F = (F_1 + F_2) \times \alpha$ として決定される。

【0033】また、ステップ417では二次空気導入装 置13の電動ポンプ13aがONにされ、二次空気が排 気管3に導入される。次いで、図5に進み、ステップ4 19から425では二次空気導入装置13の流量制御弁 13 cの開度が酸素濃度センサ10の出力に応じて調整 される。すなわち、ステップ419ではステップ401 で読み込んだ排気酸素濃度R。。が所定値R、、以上か否か が判定され、Rox≧Rot であればステップ421で流量 制御弁13cの開度V,が所定値βだけ低減される。ま た、Rox < Rox であれば、ステップ423で流量制御弁 13 cの開度V。がβだけ増大される。 これにより、流 量制御弁13cの開度Ⅴ。は、酸素濃度センサ10の出 力R。』が所定値R.。になるように制御される。 本実施例 では、上記所定値R.,は、理論空燃比を与える酸素濃度 **に設定されている。ステップ425では、上記により設** 定した開度V<sub>4</sub> を流量制御弁13 cのアクチュエータ1 3 b に出力してルーチンを終了する。

【0034】なお、前述の図4、ステップ407で所定 の再生時間t』が経過するか、またはステップ403で 再生実行条件が成立しなくなると図5、ステップ431 からステップ439が実行され、カウンタCがゼロリセ ットされ(ステップ431)、シャッターバルブ6が全 関にされ(ステップ433)、還元剤供給と二次空気の 導入が停止され(ステップ435、437、439)、 再生操作は停止される。

【0035】上述のように、本実施例では、還元剤を過 剰に供給して、排気空燃比の制御は二次空気の導入量の に数値テーブルの形で格納されている。ステップ411 50 調整で行うようにしているため、NO、吸収剤には液状 10

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還元剤の壁面付着に関係なく常に充分な量の還元剤が供 給され、還元剤不足によりNO、吸収剤の再生が不十分 になる事態が防止される。また、NOx 吸収剤に流入す る排気空燃比は常に理論空燃比近傍に維持されるので、 余剰のHC、CO成分はNO、吸収剤により完全に酸化 され、余剰のHC、CO成分が大気に放出されたりNO \* 吸収剤でアンモニアが生成されたりする問題が防止さ れる。

【0036】次に、図6に図4ステップ401で読み込 むNO、吸収剤のNO、吸収量Wの算出ルーチンを示 す。本ルーチンもECU20により、一定時間毎に実行 される。図8においてルーチンがスタートすると、ステ ップ601ではエンジン回転数N、アクセル開度Accが それぞれのセンサから入力される。次いで、ステップ8 03ではNO、吸収剤のNO、吸収量Wが算出される。 ととで、エンジン燃焼室で発生するNO。 量はエンジン 負荷が高くなるほど増大し、エンジン負荷はディーゼル エンジンにおいてはアクセル開度と回転数に比例すると 考えられるため、NO、吸収剤に吸収されているNO。 量Wは前回ルーチン実行時に較べて、K×Acc×N (Kは定数)だけ増加していると考えられる。。従ってス テップ603ではNO、吸収量Wが、W←W+K×Acc ×Nとして求められる。

【0037】次いで、ステップ605では上記により求 めたNOx 吸収量WがRAM22に格納され、本ルーチ ンは終了する。なお、前述のように、NOx吸収量Wは NOx 吸収剤の再生が完了すると、ゼロにセットされる (ステップ409)。なお、上配実施例ではNO. 吸収 剤に吸収されているNO、量の増加分を、KxA。。×N として求めたが(ステップ803)、エンジン回転数N 30 チャートの一実施例である。 とアクセル開度AccとNOx 吸収量の増加分AWとの関・ 係を予め求めておき、エンジン回転数Nとアクセル開度 Accとの数値マップとしてECU20のROM23に格 納しておいて、エンジン回転数Nとアクセル開度Accと を用いてROM23から増加分を読み出すようにしても よい。図7はこの場合の図8に相当するルーチンを示し ている。すなわち、ルーチンがスタートすると、ステッ ブ701ではエンジン回転数N、アクセル開度Accがそ れぞれのセンサから入力され、ステップ703ではとの エンジン回転数N、アクセル開度A。こを用いてECU2 40 10…酸素濃度センサ OのROM23からNO、吸収剤に吸収されているNO x 量の増加分△Wが読み出される。次いでステップ70 5では今回ルーチン実行時のNO、吸収剤のNO、吸収 量 $\mathbb{W}$ を $\mathbb{W}$ + $\mathbb{W}$ + $\mathbb{K}$ ,  $\times$   $\Delta \mathbb{W}$  ( $\mathbb{K}$ , は定数) として求め、 ステップ707では上記より求めたNOx 吸収量WをR AM22に格納してルーチンを終了する。

【0038】また、上述の実施例では図4、ステップ4

13において、排気酸素濃度RoxとNOx 吸収剤のNO ・吸収量Wとを用いてルーチン実行毎に還元剤供給量F を決定しているが、還元剤供給量FはNO。吸収剤の再 生に必要な量に対して過剰になっていれば良く、充分に 大きな一定量としても良い。更に、上述の実施例は液状 還元剤として軽油を使用する場合について説明したが、 本発明は、これに限定されるわけではなく、他の液状湿 元剤を使用する場合にも適用可能である。更に、上述の 実施例は本発明をディーゼルエンジンに適用した場合に ついて説明しているが、本発明は、同様にガソリンエン ジンにも適用可能である。

#### [0039]

【発明の効果】本発明の排気浄化装置は、還元剤を過剰 に供給し、排気空燃比を二次空気量で制御するようにし たことにより、気化や微粒化のための特別な装置を設け ることなく液状屋元剤を用いてNOx 吸収剤への還元剤 供給制御の応答性と安定性を向上させ、NO、吸収剤の 効果的な再生を行うことができる。

#### 【図面の簡単な説明】

20 【図1】本発明の構成を示すブロック図である。

【図2】本発明をディーゼルエンジンに適用した実施例 を示す図である。

【図3】NOx 吸収剤のNOx 吸放出作用を説明するた めの図である。

【図4】NO、吸収剤の再生操作を示すフローチャート の一部である。

【図5】NO、吸収剤の再生操作を示すフローチャート の一部である。

【図6】NO、吸収剤のNO、吸収量算出を示すフロー

【図7】NO、吸収剤のNO、吸収量算出を示すフロー チャートの図6とは別の実施例である。

#### 【符号の説明】

I…ディーゼルエンジン

2…エンジン吸気管

3…エンジン排気管

6…シャッターバルブ

7…アクチュエータ

8…シャッターバルブ開度センサ

11…還元剤供給装置

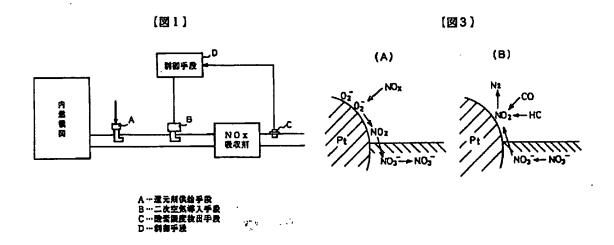
11a…還元剤噴射弁

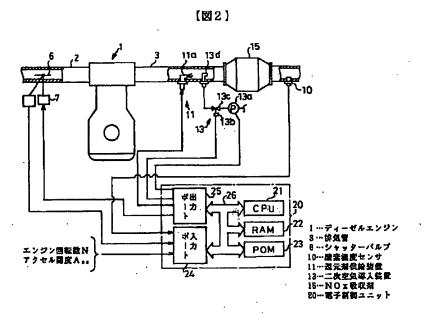
13…二次空気導入装置

13c…流量制御弁

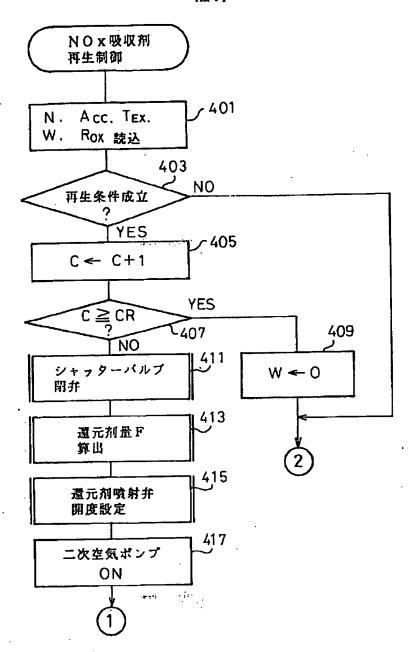
15…NO. 吸収剤

20…電子制御ユニット (ECU)

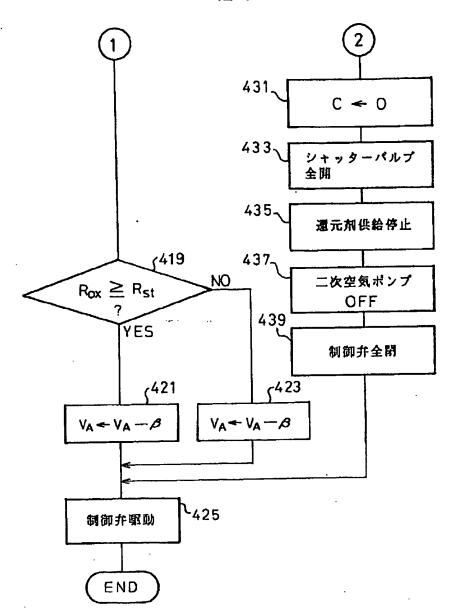


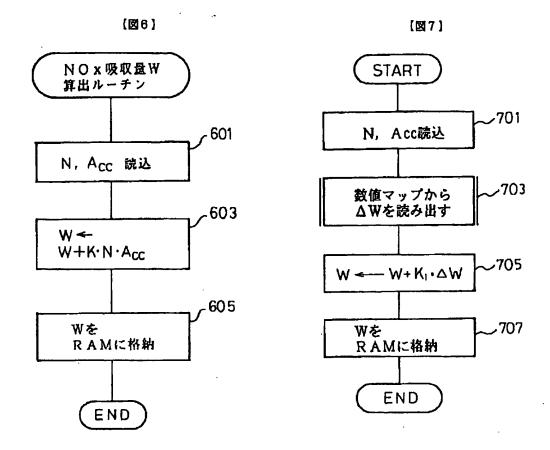


【図4】



[図5]





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